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PERSONAL INJURIES ON RAILROADS. By Edw. J. White. 2 Vols. Pp. 1739. St. Louis: F. H. Thomas Co.

Personal Injuries on Railroads contains a storehouse of law upon a very important phase of the law of negligence. The discussions are confined to steam railways; the law of street railways is not touched. The author, Mr. White, has divided his work into two volumes. In the first volume he deals with personal injuries to employees. Of the many important chapters in this volume the best are those on Contributory Negligence and Independent Contractors. The second volume is devoted to injuries to passengers, to travelers on the highway, to trespassers and to licensees. In forty-eight chapters, under as many different captions, the various topics are discussed. The law regarding the railroad crossing forms an interesting and well executed portion of this volume.

In his aim to serve the practical man, the author has carefully avoided all drawn-out discussions. He has eliminated the personal ego as much as possible. The law as it is, is taken and compiled in an intelligible style.

The leading treatises on *Master* and *Servant* and on Personal Injuries are frequently cited. The American and English Railroad Cases, American State Reports, Lawyers' Reports Annotated and other reports which are accessible in almost any law library are found in the notes.

It is regrettable that the author has not seen fit to indulge in some theoretical discussion at places where it could not help but add to clearness. For instance, an admirable opportunity is presented under proximate cause. Nor is the situation handled altogether happily when dealing with the "stop, look and listen" rule, for it would be far more helpful had the author pointed out and compared with more precision the manner in which the various states have applied the rule.

The citations show a fair distribution throughout the country, but with Missouri in the plurality.

The chief value of Mr. White's book is that he has given us a compendious treatise on an important subject, and in such a manner that it is easily accessible for the busy practitioner, who has neither time nor inclination to wade through lengthy expositions of an author's views.

W. K. M.

BRIEF MAKING AND THE USE OF LAW BOOKS. By William L. Lile, and others. West Publishing Company. 1909.

The preface to this second edition announces that the first edition "marked an epoch in the history of legal education and literature," and that "the new edition is well adapted to use as a text book on brief making."

The volume is a compilation of a number of monographs by Law School Professors on subjects which are more or less connected with brief making. The longest chapters are printed under the name "Appendix," one of which is a condensed legal dictionary, and the other, an alphabetical list of abbreviations of law reports and publications. Any of the other chapters might also have been called an Appendix. In so far as the book contains reference matter it may be occasionally valuable. In so far as it attempts to point out the manner in which a brief should be prepared, it is an attempt to teach something which cannot be taught, but can only be learned. Fifty pages are devoted to the reprinting entirely of two briefs, one a preparation by

a law student in a contest on brief making, and the other, a real brief submitted by a prominent New York law firm in a case in the Supreme Court of the United States. While these selections are admirable briefs in their way, it is difficult to see how a study of them can assist the young practitioner.

A quotation from a paragraph headed "Duplication of Reports," throws some light perhaps upon the object of the book:

"It may happen, when a case is cited from the official State Reports only, it is desirable to find the case in the volumes of the National Reporter System."

In conclusion, it may be said that the really astonishing thing about the book is that it should have found its way to a second edition.

E. A. B.